



# Suffolk-Hansemond Historical Society

*There is history in all lives*

Volume 8, Issue 1

April 1999

In this, the last issue on Bank Street, we look at the various family ties that joined the residents of the Bank/Pinner neighborhood occasionally called Joyner Park. We certainly haven't talked about all the residents but have tried to mention those about whom we knew most.

## UNITED IN MARRIAGE



Horace Whaley Phillips

Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Jones, Jr.

invite you

to be present at the marriage of their daughter

Emmie

to

Mr. Horace Whaley Phillips

on the evening of Wednesday, the twenty-seventh of November

One thousand nine hundred and twenty

at six o'clock

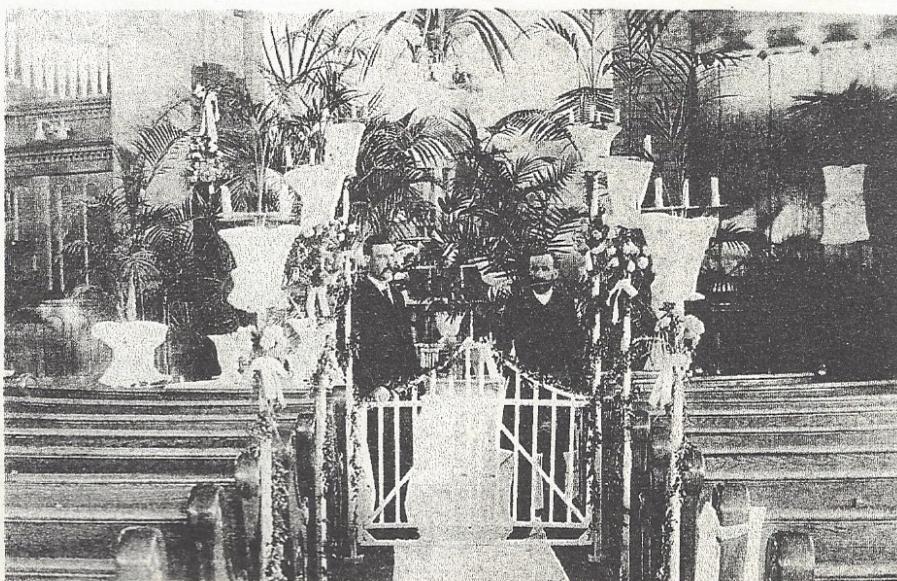
Christian Church

Suffolk, Virginia



Em Jones

*From the files of the late Dick Woodward*



Suffolk Christian Church • 1910

This picture shows Suffolk Christian Church decorated for the wedding of Miss Em Jones to Mr. Horace Whaley Phillips in 1910. The bearded man is the Reverend W.W. Staley, a native of Graham, N.C., and acquainted with the Long family there (see Longs this issue). He served at Suffolk Christian Church for fifty years (1882-1932) first as pastor, then as Pastor Emeritus. He was known for his formal, rather old-fashioned mode of dress. (See the wedding announcement on page 2.)

## THE JONES AND PHILLIPS FAMILY

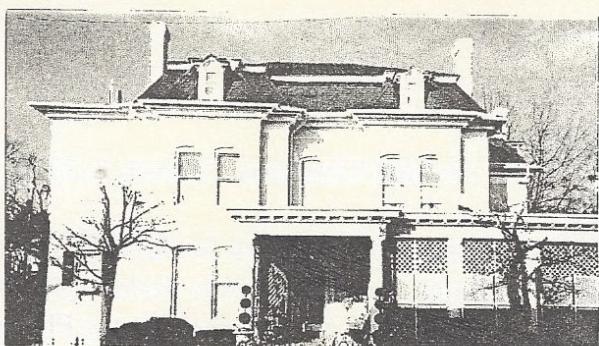
William Henry Jones, Jr. (1861-1916) was born to a family with deep roots in the Holy Neck district of Nansemond County. In the years just before and after the War Between the States the family was in Georgia as the father was engaged in the turpentine business. William Henry was born there. Some time after the War the family returned to their farm in Holy Neck and the young William Henry was educated in neighborhood schools before attending Richmond College.

He was just twenty years old when he became a clerk at the Farmers Bank of Nansemond (the reason for Bank Street's name) and he was twenty-two years old when he became Cashier in 1883. He became renowned for his business acumen when the Bank experienced amazing growth in assets under his leadership. (One obituary called him "a genius, . . . probably the greatest country banker in America.")

Along with the position at the Bank, Will Jones had other business interests. By 1886 he and his brother, R.E. (Lee) Jones, had established Jones and Brother Company down at the wharf. They were the agent for Old Dominion Steamship Company. The brothers also operated a retail store selling hay, grain, coal, ice and lime.

In 1884 he married Sallie Virginia Jones (a cousin?) and soon they undertook the building of a new home on a large corner of Col. Copeland's land near the end of Bank Street, at the corner of what would be Pinner Street. The Jones family had three daughters - Em, Phobe and Doris. We'll mention Phobe and Doris in later issues.

Down the street at the southwest corner of Bank and Franklin Streets lived the family of Horace B. Phillips (1857-1926) who was from Delaware. Mrs. Phillips was the former Evalyn Whaley, probably of Whaleyville, a town that grew because of a lumber business. The Phillips family was engaged in the lumber business here and in South Carolina. They had three children - Horace Whaley, Margaret and Fred.



Jones House - corner of Bank and Pinner

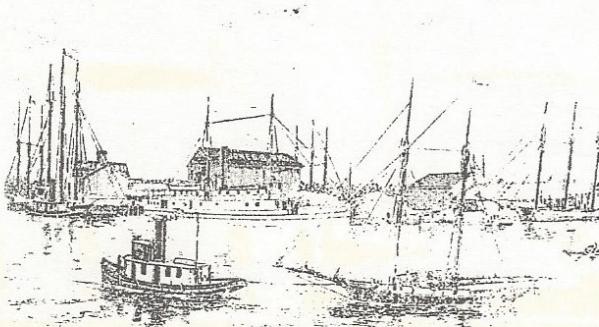
additions were made.

The young Phillips, newly weds, moved to Hardeeville, South Carolina around 1920 and there they continued in the lumber business. The Jones house has had several owners but the Phillips house was sold around 1939 to the Dawson family who still own it today.

Information thanks to Sallie B. Smith, Horace B. Phillips, II, Mrs. Horace Phillips McNeal, Bobby Jones and Gerard Dawson.

## MISS JONES WEDS HORACE PHILLIPS

Notable Social Event Takes Place In Suffolk Christian Church



This 1886 engraving shows a very busy Nansemond River waterfront and warehouses of R.E. Jones and W.H. Jones, Jr., Jones & Brother Company.

Around 1885 they built the house at the corner of Bank and Franklin. Perhaps it was first a red brick, French second-Empire house facing Franklin Street as some have suggested. Sometime early in this century it was given a new facade on Bank Street with a beautiful leaded glass door surround. Like the E.E. Holland house and the WH. Jones house, this one was stuccoed after

Suffolk, Va., Nov. 27—One of the most colorful and brilliant social events of the season was the Phillips-Jones wedding, solemnized tonight in the Suffolk Christian church at 6 o'clock.

The principals were Miss Ermine Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Jones, Jr., and Horace Whaley Phillips, son of Horace B. Phillips.

The auditorium of the Christian church was bright with hundreds of white tapers and standards twined with green. The pulpit was banked in palms, ferns and yellow chrysanthemums. Arches of green with festoons of yellow chrysanthemums were placed before the altar.

The bridal music was rendered by Hulett's orchestra of Norfolk, accompanied by the pipe organ.

The bridal chorus from Loie Fuller was played as the bridal party entered.

The ushers were James M. Wiggins of Winston-Salem, N. C.; J. Thornton Withers, A. H. Hargrave and William Truitt.

The maid of honor, Misses Doris Jones, sister of the bride, and Margaret Phillips, sister of the bridegroom, entered with the groomsmen, E. Preston Holland and J. Ross McNeal of Bungay, N. C. Miss Jones wore a gown of lavender charmeuse, trimmed with amethysts; Miss Phillips' gown was of lavender charmeuse with crystal and rhinestone trimmings. They carried LaToscia bouquets of yellow Taft roses.

Mrs. J. Thornton Withers, sister of the bride, was dame of honor. Her gown was of yellow chiffon over charmeuse, trimmed in duchess lace and rhinestones.

Before the bride, flowers were strewn by the little flower girl, Sarah Withers, who scattered daisies from a gold and lavender basket.

The bride entered with her father, William H. Jones Jr., who gave her in marriage.

The bride's gown was an imported creation of white charmeuse, in train, embroidered in rhinestones and elaborately trimmed in duchess lace. Her tulle veil was caught with a coronet of orange blossoms. She carried a La-Toscia bouquet of lilies of the valley and white orchids.

The groom, accompanied by his best man, George Robertson of Disputanta, awaited her at the altar.

During the ceremony the orchestra played, "I Love You Truly."

The service was read by Dr. W. W. Staley, pastor of the church.

The bridal party retired from the church as Mendelssohn's wedding march was rendered by the orchestra.

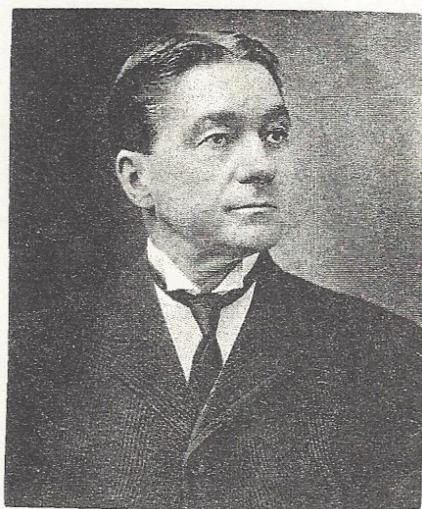
A reception was tendered the bridal party, members of the family, out-of-town guests, and intimate friends at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Jones.

The Jones' home was elaborately decorated for the occasion in lavender and gold. Chrysanthemums, ferns and palms were used, with gold and green shaded lights.

Punch was served by Misses Therese Nursey, Katherine Brothers, Elizabeth Downes, Caroline Boykin, Marie Woodward, Sallie Twitty, Virginia Shoop and Bessie Holland, members of the Girl's Card Club, of which Mrs. Phillips is the first bride.

## JUDGE AND MRS. RAWLES

The Rawles home, which used to stand near the head of Bank Street on the north side, was demolished in recent years by Main Street Methodist Church. There is a grassy lot there now.



*Richard Henry Rawles*

Richard Henry Rawles was born in the Box Elder community near the Somerton Friends Meetinghouse in the Holy Neck district. He was educated in neighborhood schools - Somerton and Holy Neck - until the War Between the States brought regular life to a standstill. After the War, he continued his education at Reynoldson Academy in Gates County. After a period of time spent in the mercantile business, he entered Richmond College where he later graduated as valedictorian of his class.

In 1875 he returned to Suffolk to practice law. For three years he served on the Board of The Farmers Bank of Nansemond (see our 1998 banking issue). From 1879-1883 he represented Southampton, Isle of Wight and Nansemond Counties in the Virginia State Senate. From 1883 to 1887 he was judge of the Nansemond County Court. From 1887 until his death in 1919 he practiced law in Suffolk and was local counsel for the Norfolk and Western Railroad.

Judge Rawles was married to the former Mary Woodward of Main Street, Suffolk. While they had no children of their own, her niece, Marie Woodward and his niece, Mary Edith Rawles, lived with them for several years as they attended private schools in Suffolk.

*Thanks to Bobby Jones, son of Mary Edith Rawles Jones*



*Mary Woodward Rawles*



## THE LONG FAMILY

The Long family of Graham, North Carolina, played a big part in the history of Suffolk. According to the late Dr. Beverly Long Holladay it all started when his father, John Copeland Holladay, (grandson of Col. Copeland of our Banks issue) went to Elon College and met his future wife, Pat Long. Then Julia met and married S.E. Everett. Then Claudia met and married Hersey Woodward, Jr. At the 1941 wedding of Julia's daughter, Esta to Douglas Kincaid, Sandy Graham, son of Kathleen met Polly Pinner of Pinner Street and soon they, too, were married.

Jacob Long's brother was the first president of Elon College, a school with close ties to Suffolk Christian Church. Elmer Long was Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina 1925-29 and Kathleen's husband held the same position in the 30's. On the home front, Pat Long Holladay was the first president of the Nansemond River Garden Club.

*Information provided by Esta Everett Kincaid and the late Dr. Beverly Long Holladay*



*Claudia Long and Hersey Woodward, Jr. around the turn of the century*



*Jacob and Esta Long with their children (L. to R.) Julia Stewart Long Everett, Jennie Patterson (Pat) Long Holladay, Elmer Long, Pearl Long Nebane, Ralph Long, Claudia Long Woodward and Kathleen Long Graham. The child barely visible through a window is Sandy Graham. (Photo from the files of the late Jacob Woodward)*

## JOYNER PARK

Joyner Park was, and on paper at least still is, at the intersection of Bank and Holladay Streets adjacent to the old Norfolk and Western station and across from the Salvation Army. Around 1915 the Norfolk and Western Railroad was looking for a place to put a railroad shop. As the shop was expected to be a source of increased revenue, Suffolk, like many other towns on the line, hoped to be the chosen place. A committee was appointed to secure land near the railroad and to lobby the company on Suffolk's behalf. Matthew Walter Joyner (grandfather of Dick Joyner and the late Marion Joyner Watson) was a member of the committee, probably chairman.

When the shop was built in Crewe, Virginia, the land that had been given to (or purchased by) the railroad needed a use. Suffolk was allowed to lease that portion of the land

nearest the station for recreational purposes. A park with gravel walks, trees, grassy areas and a bandstand soon occupied the site. It was named for Walter Joyner. The Suffolk Community Band played concerts in the bandstand on summer Sunday afternoons and various organizations held ice cream sociables (Dr. Holladay's word) there.

Over time, sad to say, ice cream sociables and bandstands in the park went out of fashion. The City installed playground equipment which was used for many years. Today, though the property appears to be in use by Norfolk and Western, the City of Suffolk has the option of returning the land to recreational use.

*Information provided by Dick Joyner, Jim Vacalis, Scott Mills and the late Dr. Beverly Holladay.*

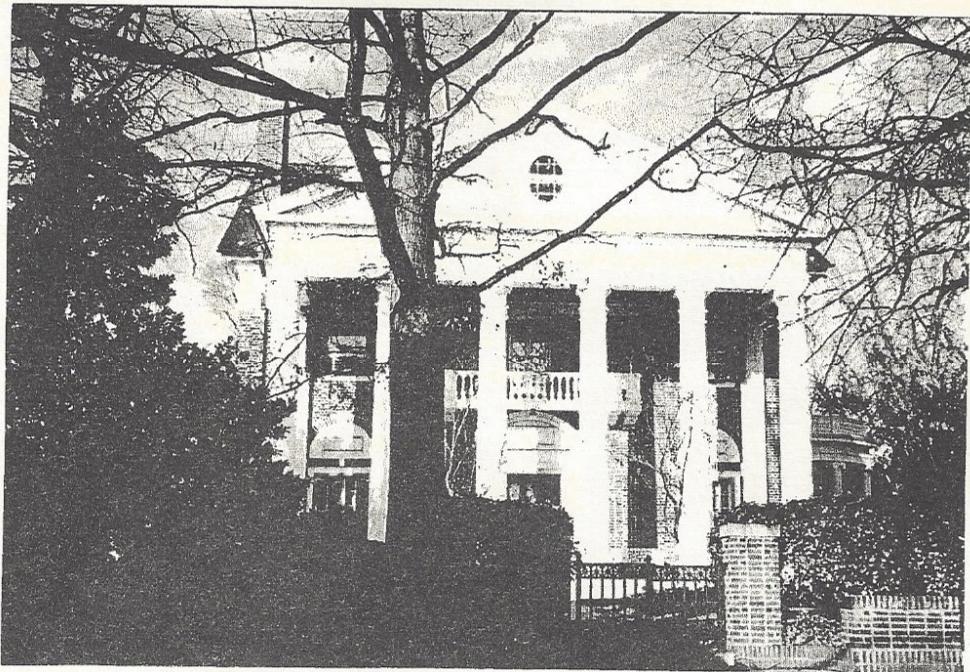


*The Suffolk Community band played at Joyner Park. Can you identify the C. 1921 members?*

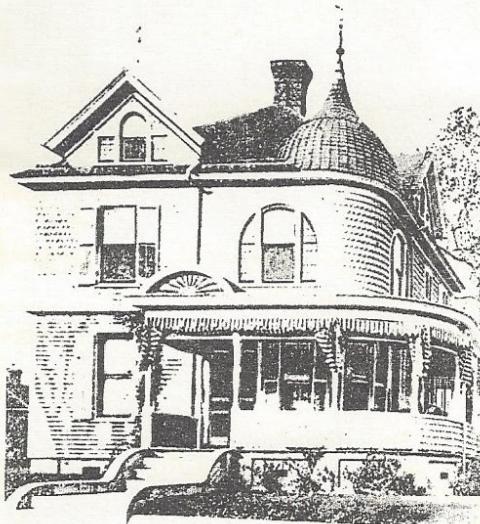
## THE TRUITT-CRUMPLER-ANNAS HOUSE

We can't leave Bank Street without mentioning what is probably the most elegant house in a neighborhood of very fashionable houses. The Truitt house (with 24 rooms - should we call it a mansion?) was built at the corner of Bank and Grace Streets in 1909 for lumber magnate George W. Truitt. Not surprisingly, fine and unusual woods are used for many interior surfaces. There is a third floor ballroom and the magnificent parlor boasts a gallery for musicians.

The house was the location for several scenes from the 1920 movie, "Suffolk's Hero", an action-packed film starring Suffolk people and made to be shown in Suffolk. (More in a later issue about that.) In 1984 the house graced the cover of *Colonial Homes* magazine.



*In 1958, Bank Street native, William Crumpler, bought the house and his daughter and her family still live there today.*

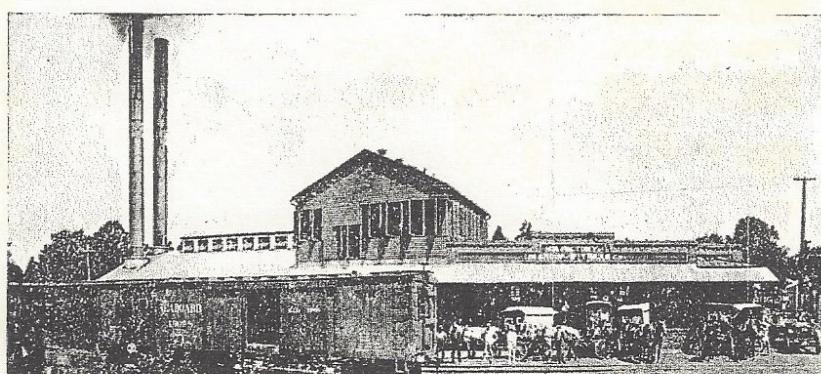


*The Shoop House*

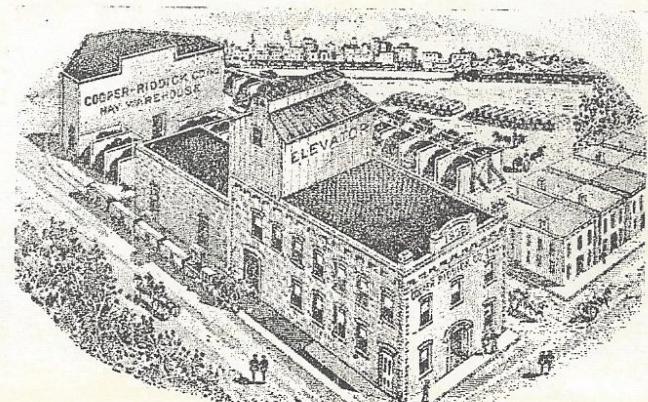
## THE SHOOP HOME

C.A. Shoop built this elegant home on the north side of Bank Street around 1898. It was later used as a parsonage for Main Street Methodist Church and, eventually, torn down. Shoop, in partnership with N.R. Withers, operated Suffolk Clay Company (a brick manufacturer), Cooper Riddick Company, Standard Peanut Company, and Benthall Machine Company. Shoop was the father of Elizabeth Dixon and grandfather of Betty Dixon Brooks.

*Information from Suffolk: A Pictorial History*



*The Shoop-Withers Company*



*Cooper-Riddick Company, Inc.*

# These Twain

This newsletter is being compiled in February, the month of sweethearts. There is hardly a sweeter or more romantic story than the one told in the book These Twain written by W.E. McClenney, Col. E.E. Holland, Rev. W.W. Staley and J.O. Atkinson about Mr. and Mrs. Willis John Lee.

Willis John Lee's family had been in the Holy Neck area of Nansemond County for many generations when he was born in 1846. He was educated at neighborhood schools until he was mustered in the Confederate Army at the age of 15. When the war ended he returned home but soon went to the turpentine woods of Georgia where his father was engaged in the turpentine and naval stores business on a large scale.

After about two years he returned to Nansemond County and after some time he bought a farm on Bennett's Creek near

Driver. He began truck farming, he opened a store and he built a cotton gin.

Mary Jennet Jones was the daughter of William Henry Jones, Sr. (see our cover article about her brother's family). While her family was long from Holy Neck, for a time they had lived in Georgia while her father was engaged in the turpentine business with the father of her future husband. They returned to Nansemond County and Jennie was educated in neighborhood schools before attending Chowan (now Chowan College) in Murfreesboro, North Carolina.



Mary Jennet Jones Lee  
1850-1930

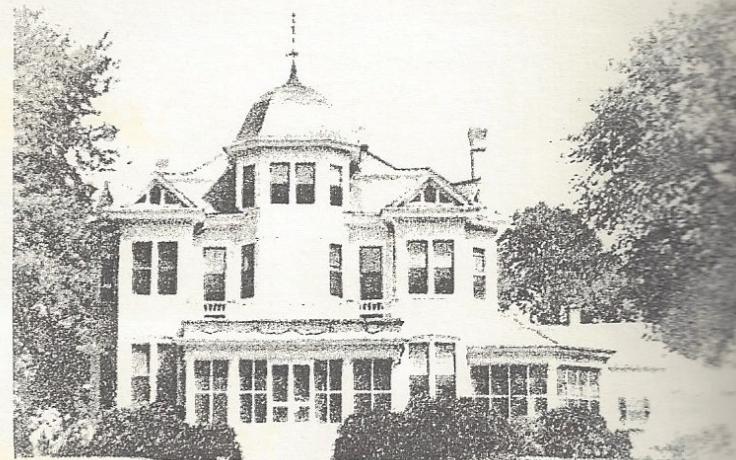
Willis John Lee  
1846-1919

In 1869 W.J. Lee and Jennie Jones were married. E.E. Holland wrote the following about Jennie Lee. "Gentle, refined, better educated than he, helpful, with a sweetness of disposition rarely possessed, and with personal traits such as to win the love of all who knew her, she made him a loving companion and an ideal help-meet." So well suited were they that Col. Holland writes regarding W.J. Lee and his wife "from (the date of their marriage) until his death she was 'the queen of his life and the idol of his love'."

Having made a great success of the Creek Farm, Mr. and Mrs. Lee bought Town Point Farm where, in 1895, they built a handsome and commodious house overlooking the Nansemond River. The Town Point Farm name on produce crates and boxes became synonymous with quality. Mr. Lee also built a fleet of vessels that were used for oysters during the season and for transporting produce to northern ports the rest of the year.

The Lees had no children but had great love for their fellow man, especially for children. Their home was always open to friends of all stations. They extended help and encouragement to many young people. Having been brought up at Holy Neck Christian Church, they were endlessly supportive of the Berea Christian Church when they moved to that area. Elon College enjoyed their support as well.

Today the farmland has been sold and developed but travelers on Route 17 can feast their eyes on the beautiful Town Point Farm home that Willis John Lee built for "the queen of his life and the idol of his love".



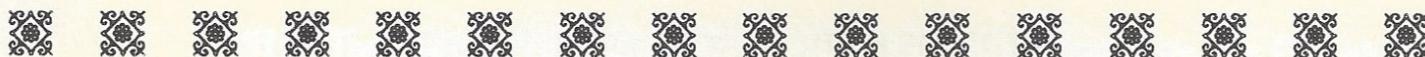
TOWN POINT FARM AS SHOWN IN Suffolk: A Pictorial History by Hobbs and Pacquette. This picture was taken before the recent restoration. Thanks to Bobby Jones for providing These Twain



## The Suffolk Christian Church Carillon

The carillon at Suffolk Christian Church which has been enjoyed by people downtown for so many years was given in memory of Judge Rawles by his nephew, Emmett Rawles, Jr., in 1963. Thirty years later replacement parts could not be obtained so a new carillon was given by Emmett Rawles and his wife in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Rawles, Sr.

The first church elevator (still in operation) was given in 1964 by Doris Jones and Em Jones Phillips, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Jones.



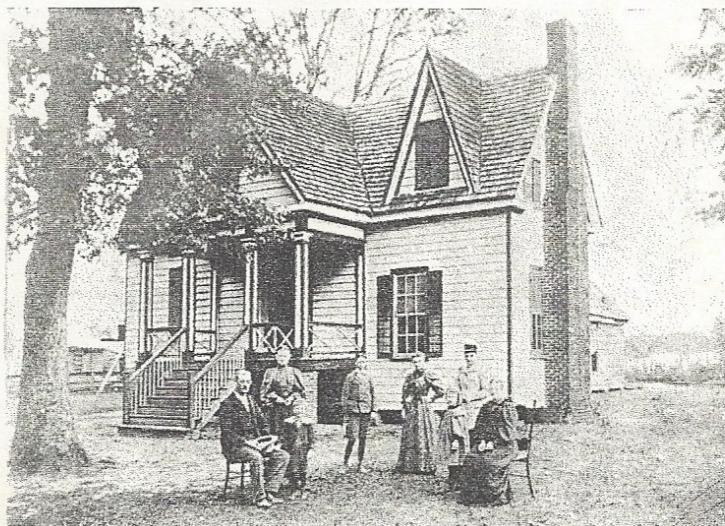
## NOTES FROM OLD NANSENOND

### The House of Seven Gables

Long a landmark on Highway 13, this house is south of Downtown Suffolk about a mile north of the North Carolina line near the village of Somerton. The north side of the house (the left side in the pictures) is the older section. Probably built about 200 years ago, it has an English basement with a story-and-a-half above. The cottage style with all the gables seems to have come with additions made to the house in the mid to late nineteenth century.



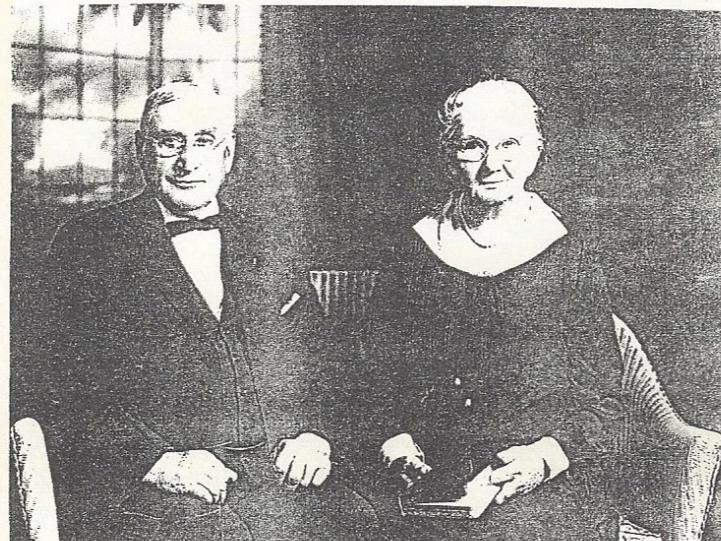
The older picture of the house was taken in 1897 when the Parker family lived there. Shown (L to R) are George Thomas Parker (seated), Oma Herbert Parker (at his father's knee), who was the father of Anne White. The three young ladies and one young man in the center are unnamed. The seated lady is Mr. Parker's wife and the little girl beside the mother is Otelia Parker (Ballard), mother of Edyth B. Small.



### Can You Follow This? More United in Marriage

Pictured below are Julius Telemicus Rawles (half brother of Richard Henry Rawles of Bank Street) and his wife, Mary Dixon Holland Rawles of the Holy Neck district. Mrs. Rawles was first cousin to Col. E.E. Holland of Bank Street and his brother, Charles Everett Holland who married Susie Jones, sister of William Henry Jones, Jr., of Bank Street.

*Thanks to Bobby Jones*



### Mystery House

Do you know where this structure is located? (See page 11 for the answer.)



## SUFFOLK HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

November 9, 1998, was a beautiful day for the SHS Task Force to witness preservation success in historic Edenton, North Carolina.

Elizabeth McCoury, our delightful and extremely hard-working Downtown Development Coordinator, arranged for us to tour the Chowan Arts Council's headquarters, gallery, gallery shop and museum. We also visited the Senior Citizens Headquarters, an auditorium and an apartment complex. All of the above are housed in Edenton's old elementary school - a fine example of adaptive reuse.

We enjoyed lunch in a downtown restaurant which originally housed a retail establishment. After lunch Peter Rascoe of Preservation North Carolina (our speaker for the March meeting) took us on a tour of Edenton's Cotton Mill Village. The mill project reflects the appeal of historic properties and attests to the success of such a project when the plan is good, sensible and yet restricted.

On January 25, 1999, the Task Force was fortunate to have Jane Stephenson, Manager and Executive Director of Roanoke's Jefferson Center, to speak to our group.

Jefferson High School was built in 1924, closed in 1974 and is twice the size of S.H.S. After ridding the building of bats, rats and pigeons and clearing out years of accumulated debris, their task force began to formulate plans and work on funding.

The first phase included renovating the major part of the building, other than the auditorium - the cost was \$5.2 million. Work on the first phase was completed in 1993 and the building quickly filled. The second phase, renovation of the auditorium, will cost \$6.2 million (they have raised more than that) and work will begin soon.

Funding for the Jefferson Center has been provided by the City of Roanoke, the private sector and alumni. It is

operated by a non-profit foundation and is self-supporting. Two large areas for receptions banquets and meetings provide a large percentage of the rental income. The Center is the new home to cultural, civic and community service organizations. The Roanoke symphony, choral and ballet groups share the building with Habitat for Humanity, a child development center, city police academy, a TV station, extension service and many other groups. The building is buzzing with activity and has a waiting list of interested occupants. What an inspiring success story - we congratulate them for formulating a great plan and making it a reality!

Ray Gindroz and Robert Freedman, consultants from Urban Design Associates, met with the SHS Task Force on February 12th. Local architects, John Tymoff and Barry Moss, attended the meeting as well. Preliminary work has begun concerning the exterior and interior condition of the building and how adaptive reuse ideas might affect the structure of certain areas.

The duty of this Task Force is to determine the best, most workable and feasible adaptive reuse plan for Suffolk High School. We all know that it is a wonderful and special building. It deserves our best effort and we hope that on completion it will be the jewel of downtown preservation. All of us can be a part of this revitalization. The old core city belongs to everyone who calls this huge city home.

*More about the SHS Task Force on the next page.*



*Suffolk High School in days gone by.  
Senior Day - 1959*

## SHS ALUMNI

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

WE ARE STARTING  
TO COMPILE A LIST  
OF ALL ALUMNI.  
PLEASE CONTACT BETSY  
IF YOU HAVE ACCESS TO  
NAMES AND ADDRESSES.  
(757) 539-6312

## SHS Task Force

Below are ideas for usage and a list of Task Force members. Please feel free to call us with your ideas.

### Task Force Members

The Honorable E. Dana Dickens

Betsy Brothers (757)539-6312

George Barnett

George Consolvo

John Harrell

Sharon Harris

G.S. Hobbs

Albert Jones

Barbara McPhail

Gail Pruden

Bennie Speight



## Notes from the President

Barbara McPhail

My first year as your President is coming to a close. It is hard to believe that so much time has passed and so many projects are underway or already completed. It is a time consuming job that requires diligence, patience and time. I am sometimes frustrated by the waiting game we play, but I am coming to understand the system and how it works. I am most often asked about the train station and Suffolk High School.

As soon as all the government officials give their final stamp of approval, we will be able to proceed with the bidding process on the train station. It is hard to explain to people who are not involved, but rest assured we want the project to begin more than anyone. I am happy that plans for Suffolk High School seem to be moving much faster than I expected. The architects have been chosen, and they are beginning preliminary designs. It is much easier to get things done on this project because it does not involve grant money and restrictions.

Our Property Company will be closing on the two Main Street houses very soon. It will be exciting to stabilize and market these first properties. Whoever acquires these properties will be eligible for several different types of tax credits.

We are also working with the City to decide how to best use the old courthouse. It would make a great museum, archives, research library and visitors center. We desperately need this space.

We are so pleased that Mayor Joseph P. Riley of Charleston, S. C. has accepted our invitation to come to Suffolk. This is going to be another project that we share with the City. Mayor Riley is a leading expert on urban design and planning issues and is a frequent speaker across the country. This event is being planned as a part of our Preservation Week activities. I hope all of you will plan to attend this very special event.

Thank you for supporting the activities of the Historical Society. I believe we are making a difference in Suffolk, but our commitment must continue so that our heritage will be preserved for future generations.

### *Auditorium Uses*

Theatre Groups

Speakers Forums

Public Meetings

Concerts (Symphony, Army-Navy, Tidewater Winds)

Corporate Sponsorships

Private Sector Meetings

### *News from the Suffolk Museum*

March 16 - April 25: 15th Annual Photography Exhibit  
Theme: "Built Environments"

Juried exhibit open to all photographers

May 4-23

Va. Foundation for Humanities Exhibit, "Because My Work Is What I Do: Watermen of the Northern Neck"

May 4- June 6:

Textile Exhibit - "It's a Garden Party"

April 25: Molly's All American Birthday  
May 5-9: Mother's Day Tea Party

### *Riddick's Folly Events*

## S.O. S. UPDATE

Architectural plans for the restoration of the Seaboard Railroad Station on North Main Street are now complete and are in the process of final review for approval by the Virginia Department of Transportation, which administers the grant funding the renovation project. Once final approval comes from VDOT, the Plans can be let out for bids, a contract signed and work gotten underway. It is hoped that all renovation work can be completed by this time next year.

But once that work is completed, how will the station be used? No firm plans have yet been made, but its use must be compatible with the purposes for which the grant money was approved, that is, for a railroad museum. Current plans for this museum center around the idea that Suffolk has always been a community dependent upon the railroads for its well being.

To demonstrate this idea to its fullest, plans call for an HO scale model railroad depicting the Suffolk and Carolina branch of the old Norfolk & Southern Railroad from Constance Wharf up the ravine behind Cedar Hill, along Moore Avenue, across the Norfolk & Western main line and East Washington Street, and the branch's engine facility and yard interchanging with the Atlantic Coast Line and old Southern Railroad (now Norfolk, Franklin & Danville Railroad).

This stretch of track was chosen because it interconnects with every other Railroad passing through the city. It will be modeled during the period 1905-1907, because 1905 was the year in which the Suffolk & Carolina Railroad was sold to the old Norfolk & Southern Railroad company, because 1905 was also the year in which the Tidewater Railway Company (later the Virginian Railway Company) laid its tracks through town right past our station, and because a view of what it looked like at that time is available on the "Bird's Eye View of Suffolk - 1907". It is also an extremely interesting stretch of track from a modeler's standpoint, with the wharf, the McCleary Locomotive Works, the Montgomery Lumber Company, the Suffolk & Carolina engine servicing facilities, and the adjoining interchange yard.

The model will be constructed by the Tidewater Division of the National Model Railroad Association. The local division has appointed Norm Garner as chairman of its project committee to handle the construction of this layout. Norm is the immediate past assistant superintendent (vice-president) of the division, the present vice-president of the Mid-East Region of the NMRA, and is presently employed by the Portsmouth Children's Museum as curator in charge of the Lancaster Model Railroad Exhibit there. He has met with the Ad Hoc Committee to Save Our Station recently, and has impressed the members with his enthusiasm for the project as well as his modeling skills (Norm has won or placed in modeling contests at the local and regional level). He is gathering together a group of equally qualified modelers to build the layout.

In the meantime, Norm is also asking for any information which is available on the line to be modeled or the industries which it served. Plats and other information available in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office are currently being researched, but help is still needed in this regard (If you wish to help, contact Jim McLemore at 539-4400). Also, old photographs of wharf or industry scenes are desperately needed, as well as any other sort of information which will give the modelers something to work with.

Also needed will be railroad artifacts from any era or area that can be put on display. So if you have any such railroad memorabilia, please contact Barbara McPhail or Lynn Kirk Rose.

The success of the renovation project seems assured by the work of the architects and Ad Hoc Committee members so far. But the long term success of the museum it will house will depend to a great extent on all of our members assisting in the accumulation of information and exhibit items that will help present a view of Suffolk and its historical as well as present-day interdependence on the Railroads passing through it. Your help in this project will be appreciated.

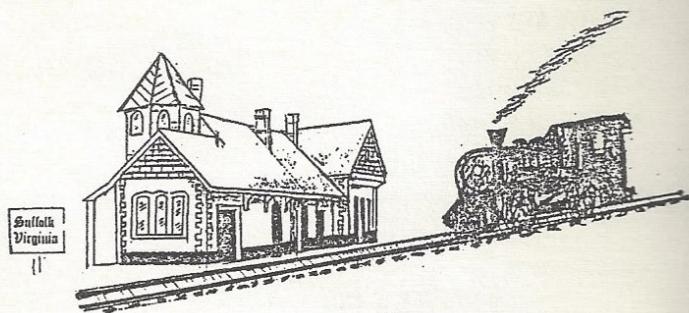
We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts:

Recent donations to the Save Our Station Fund  
have been made by:

The Blair Family: James, William, Robert & Linda,  
and Pearl Harrell  
Chimney Service, Inc.  
Ethel Lewis  
The Village Garden Club

Memorial gifts have been made in memory of:

Wesdelle Birdsong  
Elizabeth Hines  
Oliver Hobbs  
Ralph Stradley



## Hats off to Elizabeth McCoury Downtown Development Coordinator

Elizabeth McCoury works tirelessly everyday to help make our city a better place to live. Her commitment to her job is incredible, and she works with the Historical Society on a number of projects, such as the train station and Suffolk High School. One of her other duties is keeping up with other communities and networking with their coordinators and planners. Currently she serves as Vice President for Program Development for the Virginia Downtown Development Association. Because of Elizabeth, our group has recently received recognition in the VDDA newsletter which goes out all over the state. The following article appeared in January. Thanks Elizabeth for your hard work and support!

### Suffolk's Old City Hall and Market Mural Dedicated

On November 19, 1998, a mural by Suffolk native and artist, Chip Wilkinson of Wall Murals, was dedicated by the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society and the City of Suffolk as a reminder of the importance of historical preservation.

The ceremony, held at the Main Street Mini-Park beside the Mills Godwin Courts Building as part of the revitalization of downtown Suffolk, was coordinated by Elizabeth McCoury, Downtown Development Coordinator.

The mural - the idea of Historic Society member, Betsy Brothers - marks the second effort by the group to remind the public of what once stood along Suffolk's main corridor. In June, Brothers and fellow Historical Society member, Sue Woodward, helped return to Main Street the bell that once tolled the time from the building's clock tower. "We feel that the old city market was such a significant building downtown," said Barbara McPhail, President of the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society. "Unfortunately, it is one of the buildings taken down before the people of Suffolk began to appreciate these things."

The Old City Hall and Market (1891-1962) was a Gothic-style structure designed by Norfolk architect, George C. Moser. Market stalls were on the first floor, and the second floor housed the police department and an auditorium, which later became a ballroom and recreational center. Court was held on the third floor. G.S. Hobbs, downtown store owner, permitted the mural to be placed on the side of his business, in operation since 1963.

Recent donations to the  
Mural Fund have been made by:  
Chip Wilkinson of Wall Murals  
Judge and Mrs. Everett Bagnell  
Joe and Lynn Barlow  
Floyd Benton  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Leggett  
Tidewater Blanching

## The Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society

And

## The City of Suffolk

Are proud to announce a major upcoming event

### Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. of Charleston, S.C. Is coming to Suffolk!



*Joseph P. Riley, Jr.*

On Monday, May 3, 1999, we will have the privilege of having the dynamic Mayor Riley speak at a dinner meeting at the National Guard Armory. "Mayor Riley is considered one of the most visionary and highly effective governmental leaders in America. First elected Mayor in December, 1975, Mayor Riley is serving his sixth term. Under his leadership, Charleston has increased its commitment to racial harmony and progress, achieved a substantial decrease in crime, experienced remarkable revitalization of its historic downtown business district, seen the creation and growth of Spoleto Festival U.S.A., built the beautiful Waterfront Park, developed nationally-acclaimed affordable housing, and experienced unprecedented growth in Charleston's size and population.

Mayor Riley has led a city government with an impressive record of innovation in public safety, housing, arts and culture, children's issues, the creation of park and other public spaces, and economic revitalization and development. The City of Charleston is recognized as one of the most livable and progressive cities in the United States." His vision, leadership, and impressive list of accomplishments have brought Mayor Riley and the City of Charleston national and international acclaim.

We are looking forward to having Mayor Riley visit Suffolk. Later, you will be receiving detailed information on this exciting event. Plan to make your reservations early.

### HATS OFF TO:

Tom and Carol Apple who volunteered to take our newsletter articles and put them into a camera ready form. With their publishing and computer skills, they are saving the Historical Society a lot of money. It is so refreshing to have new people come forward to help. Putting this newsletter together takes a lot of time and effort.

Sue Woodward is to be recognized for her continuing research and interesting articles. She puts so much thought into producing material that she feels everyone will enjoy. Thanks Sue!

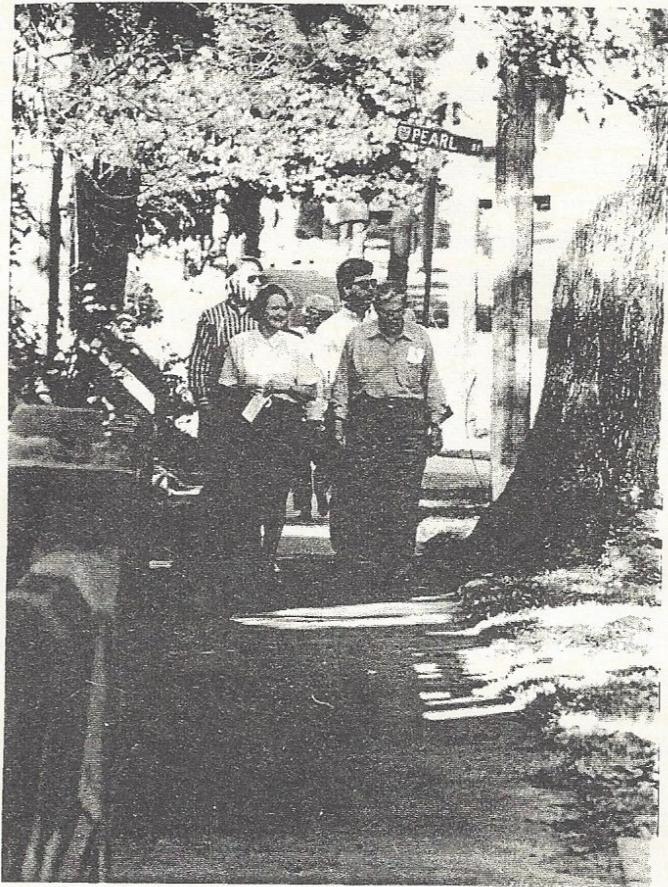
### Mystery House

*Somerton Friends Meetinghouse on Quaker Road in Holy Neck.*

**Candlelight Tour 1998**  
**Celebrating the Holidays in Suffolk's Olde Towne**



*Sarah Catherine McPhail and Mary Katherine Moore  
hang wreaths at 223 Bank St.*



*Tour participants enjoy a walk on Pinner Street*

The Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society would like to thank the following:

**Homeowners**

Mr. & Mrs. Allyn Brown  
Mr. Christopher Conrad  
Mr. & Mrs. George Morrison  
Ms. Michele Swing  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wallace

**Hostess Chairmen**

Barbara Birdsong  
Jennifer Birdsong  
Mary Darden  
Antoinette Williams

**Garden Clubs**

Lake Kilby  
Lakeview Heights  
Laurel Village  
Pitchkettle Point  
The Suffolk Woman's Club

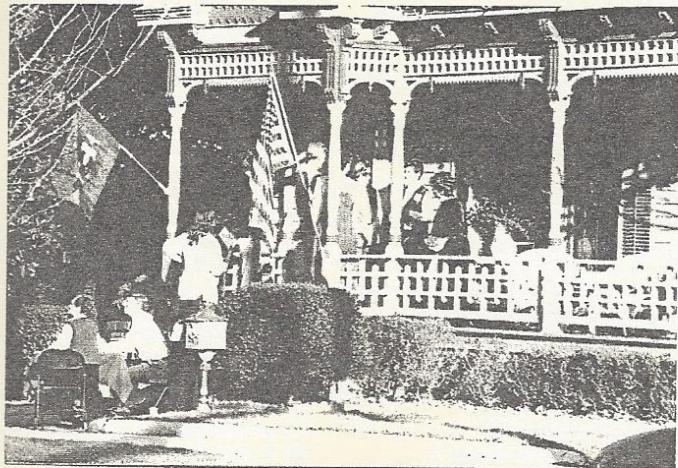
Thanks also to the Trinity Christian Church

**Other People in Charge**

Dana Adams, Betsy Brothers, Linda Consolvo, Jacque Edwards, Linda Ferguson, Mary Lawerence Harrell, Wendy Hill, Barbara McPhail, Myrtle Ann Mountcastle, Sylvia Pond, Ruby Santura, Sharry and Charlie Swann, Janice Thomas, Dorothy Williams, Margie Wilkinson, Sue Woodward and the Suffolk Police Department. Thanks also to the Bank of Suffolk for being our ticket sponsor.

A special thanks to all the many volunteers who helped to make our tour a success. The ticket sellers, hosts and hostesses, costumed characters, and decorators who provided the beautiful arrangements for the homes.

## Scenes from 1998 Candlelight Tour



*Guests enjoy 234 Pinner Street,  
the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wallace*



*Guests enjoy the garden buildings at the  
home of Mr. and Mrs. Allyn Brown*



*Phyllis Stancill and Peter Pruden enjoy a warm December day on Pinner Street*

### 1999 Candlelight Tour Chairmen Chosen

Plans for the next Candlelight Tour are underway. Jennifer Birdsong, Linda Consolvo, and Sallie Sebrell will be the chairmen. They very graciously agreed to take on this task, and we owe them a big thank you.

The tour will be on Main Street again but with an expanded range of activities that will last a week and involve the downtown businesses as well as a tour of 5 homes. There are plans to have a designer and antique show house and tea room that will be opened with a gala event. The old courthouse will be opened and the train station as well. Look for more about this big event and don't hesitate to call one of the chairmen if you wish to help plan and participate. We are seeking designers and antique dealers who would like to help put the "show house" together for us. Betsy Brothers and Barbara McPhail may be contacted if you are interested in helping with this project.

Candlelight Tour 1999 promises to be a very special event starting on Friday, December 3. Look for more information.

# 1999 SNHS Membership Roster (as of April 5)

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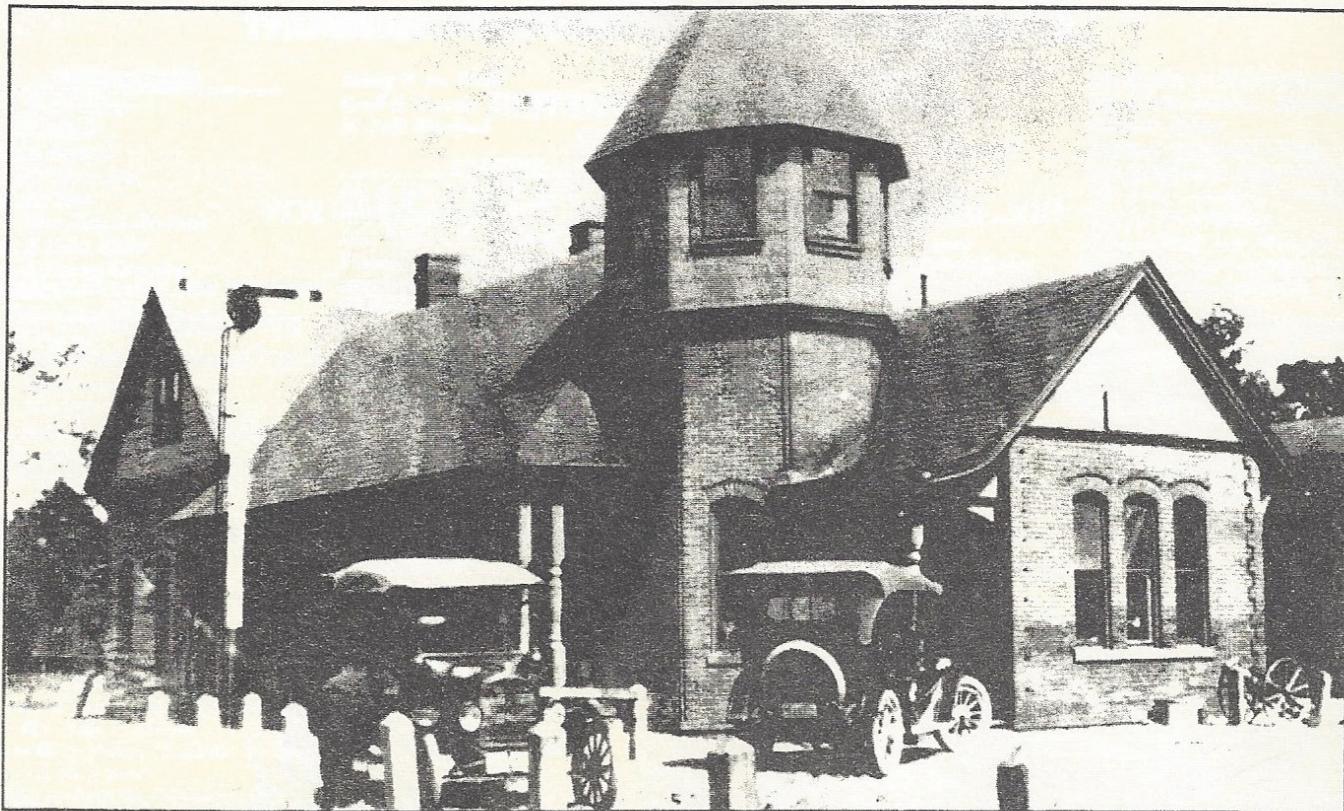
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*This early photo of the CXS Train Station on Main Street was taken in June 1918.  
Photo courtesy of Virginia Railway Depots by Donald R. Traser.*

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